

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicants propose amending Fig. 2 so as to show a drive unit as disclosed in the specification as originally filed. See, for example, the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11. No new matter has been entered.

Attachment: One Annotated Sheet of Proposed Drawing Corrections (including Fig. 2)

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application. New claim 9 was added April 21, 2006, and has been amended herein to correct a clerical error. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks in addition to those remarks as submitted April 21, 2006.

Drawings

Applicants submit herewith proposed drawing changes wherein Fig. 2 is amended to show a drive unit as disclosed in the specification as originally filed at, for example, page 11, lines 5-24. No new matter has been entered. The specification has been amended so as to delete the reference to “not shown” in connection with the drive unit.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

- The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,120,609 to Selyutin (hereinafter Selyutin) in view of various secondary references. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections because, in addition to the reasons as set forth in the Amendment filed April 21, 2006, the references fail to teach or suggest all of the elements as set forth in the claims for the reasons set forth below.

First, Selyutin fails to teach or suggest a moving portion.

The Examiner asserts that the moving portion is disclosed in Selyutin's Figs. 10-15. However, Applicants are unable to identify which member corresponds to the moving body. The Examiner asserts that the member 34 corresponds to a base. However, a member which is movably supported by the base 34 and is connected to a connecting portion 30, as claimed, is not shown in Figs. 10-15 of Selyutin. Therefore, if the Examiner persists in maintaining this rejection, Applicants respectfully request that he further explain his reading of Selyutin.

Second, Selyutin fails to teach or suggest an adjusting support mechanism.

In the presently claimed invention, as described in the present specification at page 4, lines 3-9, one purpose of the adjusting support mechanism is that “even in case the casing is distorted by its own weight when it is placed on the surface plate, the adjusting support

mechanisms causes the relative displacement to hold the clearance between the base and the casing constant, so that the unexpected contact between the two can be prevented to keep the performance of the differential pumping seal best.” That is, the adjusting support mechanism is provided for maintaining the clearance.

In contrast to that set forth in claim 1, Selyutin’s member 239 is a mechanism for moving a work. This member 239 changes the clearance between a member 34 (base) and casing so as to achieve relative displacement. Therefore, Selyutin does not disclose the adjusting support mechanism to maintain the clearance.

Further, a positioning device of the presently claimed invention comprises a work drive unit in addition to the adjusting support mechanism. See page 11, lines 10-12 of the specification for example.

The cited references do disclose driving means for moving the work. However, none of the references discloses adjusting support mechanisms which is other than the driving means for the work. Accordingly, the secondary references fail to make up for the above-noted deficiencies in Selyutin. Therefore, for at least any of the above reasons, claim 1 is not rendered obvious by Selyutin in view of any one of the secondary references as applied by the Examiner. Likewise, dependent claims 2-8 are not rendered obvious by the references applied by the Examiner.

Conclusion


In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Supplemental Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10/805,214

Atty. Dkt No. Q80608

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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